

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

Replace the Abstract of the Disclosure currently of record with the attached new Abstract of the Disclosure.

The changes made to the Abstract of the Disclosure are shown below:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A disposable diaper ~~comprising~~ including a fluid-permeable topsheet, a fluid-impermeable backsheet and a fluid-retentive absorbent core interposed between the topsheet and the backsheet, the disposable diaper being formed in a substantially vertically elongated configuration and having a stomach side, a back side and a crotch region positioned between the stomach side and the back side, ~~wherein a second~~ and lateral absorbent ~~core is~~ cores disposed at an outside region of each opposite side edge of the absorbent core at the crotch region along a longitudinal direction of the diaper, and an elastic ~~member is~~ member disposed at the region where the ~~second~~ lateral absorbent ~~core is~~ cores are disposed along a longitudinal direction of the diaper.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the three paragraphs on page 1 beginning at line 3 with the following three amended paragraphs:

~~This~~ The present invention relates to a disposable diaper excellent in leak-preventive property and capable of preventing leak occurrable particularly around the leg areas. This invention also relates to a disposable diaper excellent in storability/retainability of an auxiliary absorber, wearability (property of feel in wear and easy application to a wearer) and/or fitness at the crotch region and the like, in addition to its excellent leak-preventive property.

Heretofore, it has been ~~an important~~ a significant problem for disposable diapers as to how to prevent ~~leak-occurable~~ leaks from occurring around the leg areas. Japanese Patent Publication No. 05-33630 discloses a disposable diaper in which an absorbent core is comprised of a central absorbent section of a width in conformity with the human body and an outer absorbent section disposed outside thereof, so that ~~elose~~ a close fit to a wearer at the crotch region is enhanced, thereby improving the leak-preventive property. However, this disposable diaper has ~~such a~~ the problem that wrinkles ~~are liable to~~ can occur ~~to the~~ in the central absorbent section due to the contraction of an expansible part placed between the central absorbent section and the outside absorbent section,

~~and therefore~~ whereby urine and excretions can easily leak from the central absorbent section along the wrinkles. Moreover, since it is designed such that ~~leak is~~ leaks are prevented by enhancing the fit at the central absorbent section, ~~these~~ urine and excretions ~~leaked~~ which leak out towards the opposite sides from the central absorbent section can reach the outside absorbent section comparatively easily, and especially, in ~~ease~~ the case where the amount of excretions is large, ~~these~~ the feces and urine easily leak outside beyond the outside absorbent section.

Moreover, since the outside absorbent section is difficult to ~~deform~~ conform along the contour of the wearer's body, the wearability and fitting property at the crotch region are ~~deteriorated.~~ deteriorate.

Please replace the two paragraphs on page 2 beginning at line 5 with the following two amended paragraphs:

In the disposable diaper of Japanese Patent Publication No. 05-33630, the outside absorbent section is brought into contact with the inner side of the wearer's upper thigh. However, in this disposable diaper, the outside absorbent section is liable to be turned over at an area in the vicinity of the boundary area ~~between a~~ between the stomach side region and/or the back side region where the central absorbent section and the outside absorbent section are placed on a same plane and brought into

contact with the wearer and the crotch region where the outside absorbent section and the central absorbent section are greatly bent, and ~~leak~~ leaks may occur through a gap formed between the outside absorbent section and the wearer's skin. Moreover, it is difficult for ~~this~~ the disposable diaper to sufficiently fit with the outside absorbent section to the inner side of the wearer's upper thigh. In short, in ~~the~~ conventional disposable diapers, sufficient leak-preventive property is not yet realized even for those of the type in which an absorbent core is disposed around the leg area.

Recently it was ~~attempted~~ suggested, in order to reduce the economical/laborious burden in nursing work or the ~~like~~ like, that an auxiliary absorber ~~is used~~ be used in combination with a disposable diaper. However, the conventional disposable diaper ~~is deteriorated~~ experiences deterioration in storability/retainability of the auxiliary absorber and thus its improvement is demanded.

Please replace the paragraph on page 3, beginning at line 2, with the following amended paragraph:

It is, therefore, a first object of the present invention to provide a disposable diaper excellent in leak-preventive property and capable of ~~surely~~ preventing ~~leak-occurable~~ leakage which may occur around the leg areas.

Please replace the two paragraphs on page 3, beginning at line 8, with the following two amended paragraphs:

A third object of the present invention is to provide a disposable diaper capable of ~~taking such~~ adopting a curved configuration ~~as being~~ so as to be able to fit ~~to the~~ to a wearer's body at the time of putting it on and therefore, capable of being worn very easily.

A fourth object of the present invention is to provide a disposable diaper capable of ~~fitting its second~~ providing lateral absorbent ~~core disposed portion having a~~ cores having fluid retainability ~~eloseely~~ close to the wearer's skin, excellent in fitness to the inguinal are and capable of ~~surely~~ preventing leak-~~occurable~~ leakage which may occur around the leg areas.

Please replace the two paragraphs on page 3 beginning at line 19 with the following two amended paragraphs:

A still further object of the present invention is to provide a disposable diaper capable of ~~taking~~ adapting to the shape of ~~a trunk,~~ the trunk of a body, is excellent in its leak-preventive property and designability, and easy to put on or apply to a wearer.

The present invention has achieved the above-mentioned first object by providing a disposable diaper comprising a

fluid-permeable topsheet, a fluid-impermeable backsheet and a fluid-retentive absorbent core interposed between the topsheet and the backsheet, the disposable diaper being formed in a substantially vertically elongated configuration and having a stomach side, a back side and a crotch region positioned between the stomach side and the back side, wherein ~~a second~~ second or lateral absorbent ~~core is~~ cores are disposed at an outside region of ~~each the~~ opposite side ~~edge~~ edges of the absorbent core at the crotch region along a longitudinal direction of the diaper, and an elastic member is disposed at the region where the ~~second lateral~~ absorbent ~~core is~~ cores are disposed along a longitudinal direction of the diaper (the "first invention" used hereinafter refers to this invention).

Please replace the paragraph on page 4 beginning at line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

Also, the present invention has achieved the above-mentioned second and/or third ~~object~~ objects by providing a disposable diaper comprising a fluid-permeable topsheet, a fluid-impermeable backsheet and a fluid-retentive central absorbent core interposed between the topsheet and the backsheet, the disposable diaper being formed in a substantially vertically elongated configuration and having a stomach side, a back side and a crotch region positioned between the stomach

side and the back side, wherein ~~a second absorbent core is~~
second or lateral cores are disposed at an outside region of
 each opposite left (or right) side edge of the central absorbent
 core at the crotch region along a longitudinal direction of the
 diaper, a basis weight of an absorbent core disposed at an
 intermediate region between the central absorbent core and each
 of the second or lateral absorbent cores is smaller than a basis
 weight of any of the absorbent cores located at the region where
 the central absorbent core is disposed and at the region where
 each of the second absorbent cores is disposed, and a pair of
 axes of flexibility are formed on opposite side portions of the
 central absorbent core along a longitudinal direction (the
 "second invention" used hereinafter refers to this invention).

**Please replace the paragraphs three paragraphs on page 6
 beginning at line 12 to page 7, line 12, with the following
 three amended paragraphs:**

Preferred embodiments of the present invention will be
 described hereinafter. A disposable diaper 1 according to a
 first embodiment of the ~~first~~ invention comprises, as shown in
 Figs. 1 to 3, a fluid-permeable topsheet 2, a fluid-impermeable
 backsheet 3 and a central ~~absorbent core 4 as a~~ fluid-retentive
 absorbent ~~core~~ core 4 interposed between the topsheet 2 and the

backsheet 3, the disposable diaper 1 being formed in a substantially vertically elongated configuration.

The topsheet 2 and the backsheet 3 each have an external configuration equal to that of the disposable diaper 1, in which a lengthwise central portion is constricted. The central absorbent core 4 as an absorbent core is interposed between the topsheet 2 and the backsheet 3, and it ~~has a~~ has an hourglass-like configuration whose lengthwise central portion is constricted. A waist portion elastic member 13 for forming a waist gather is disposed at a back side region A which is located at the back side of the wearer ~~in wear~~ along a back side waist edge ~~portion~~ portion 11 (that portion forming an opening edge portion ~~on a~~ on the back side ~~of a~~ of the waist opening portion which is formed when ~~(in wear)~~ being worn). Fastening tapes 5, 5 are disposed at opposite side edges of the back side region A, respectively. Landing zones (not shown) for fixing the fastening tapes 5, 5 are disposed at an outer surface of a stomach side region B which is disposed at the wearer's stomach side when in wear.

A crotch region C in the disposable diaper 1 is a portion which is disposed in the wearer's crotch ~~in wear~~ and is located between the back side region A and the stomach side region B. Fluid retentive second absorbent cores 6, 6 are disposed at outside ~~areas of~~ areas at opposite side edges 41, 41 of the

central absorbent core 4 in the crotch region C in such a manner as to be spaced apart from the opposite side edges 41, 41, respectively. The second absorbent cores 6, 6 each have a belt-like configuration and are disposed along a longitudinal direction of the diaper 1. More specifically, the second absorbent core 6 is approximately equal in width ~~over~~ in its longitudinal direction in the crotch region C and is disposed such that its longitudinal direction is aligned ~~with a~~ with the longitudinal direction of the diaper 1. The second absorbent cores 6, 6 are disposed between the back side region A and the stomach side region B and are integrally connected to the central absorbent core 4 at opposite end portions 6a, 6b thereof, respectively.

Please replace the three paragraphs on page 7, beginning at line 13 to page 8, line 6, with the following three amended paragraphs:

~~As the~~ The second absorbent ~~core 6, those conventional ones~~
core 6 having various constitutions and used as an absorbent core in an absorbent article such as ~~as~~ a disposable diaper or the like can be used without any particular limitation. For example, there can be used an aggregate of hydrophilic fibers composed of a natural material such as, rayon, cellulose or the like, an aggregate obtained by surface treating synthetic fibers such as polyethylene, polypropylene or the like, any of ~~those~~

these aggregates with a water absorption polymer retained thereby, and the like.

In the disposable diaper of the ~~first~~ present invention, an elastic member 8 is disposed at each region D (see Figs. 2 and 3) where the second absorbent core 6 is disposed, ~~along a~~ along the longitudinal direction of the diaper 1. The "region D" where the second absorbent core 6 is disposed refers to a region, at the inside of which the second absorbent core 6 is arranged when the disposable diaper is developed ~~and plan-viewed~~ as shown in Fig. 1. In the disposable diaper 1 of this embodiment, as shown in Fig. 2, plural pieces of elastic members 8 are disposed between the second absorbent core 6 and the backsheet 3 in the region D where the second absorbent core 6 is disposed. Each elastic member 8 is fixedly ~~sandwichingly held~~ sandwiched between the backsheet 3 and the fixing sheet 82 disposed on the backsheet 3 ~~in an~~ in a stretched state thereof.

The second elastic member 81 is disposed at an outside area of the region D where the second absorbent core 6 is disposed in a widthwise direction of the disposable diaper 1, i.e., in an outside area of the region D where the second absorbent core 6 is disposed, in a widthwise direction of the diaper 1 ~~when plan-viewed in a developed state of the diaper 1~~ as shown in Fig. 1, along a longitudinal direction of the diaper 1. One piece each of the second elastic member 81 is disposed at an edge portion

of each opposite ~~left~~ (left or right) side and is fixedly ~~sandwichingly held~~ sandwiched, as shown in Fig. 2, between the topsheet 2 and the backsheet 3 in its stretched state.

Please replace the paragraph on page 8, beginning at line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

The material for forming the various members of the disposable diaper 1 of this embodiment will now be described. As the material for forming the topsheet 2, the backsheet 3, the central absorbent core 4, the fastening tape 5, the waist elastic member 13 and the landing zone (not shown), various kinds of those which have heretofore been used for disposable diapers can be used without any particular limitation. As the raw material for forming the elastic members 8 and the second elastic member 81, those of various kinds such as natural rubber, synthetic rubber, spandex and the like can be used. Their shapes may be in the form of thread, ~~belt, film~~ a belt, a film or the like.